THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Monday, 6th December 1954.

The House met in the Assembly Chamber, Government Estate, Mount Road, at eleven of the clock, Mr. Speaker (THE HON. SRI J. SIVASHANMUGAM PILLAI) in the Chair.

MR. SPEAKER :—" I must inform hon. Members that the House will sit to-day till 1 o'clock and not 1-30 p.m. The lunch time has been increased by half an hour. So the lunch time will be from 1 p.m. to 2-30 p.m."

I.—QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

STARRED QUESTIONS.

Prevention of Sri Poothatta Narayanan from entering Mahe.

* 271 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state whether any obstacle was placed before Sri Poothatta Narayanan from entering Mahe to address a public meeting after the liberation of Mahe?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member must have been misinformed; the district authorities have reported that Sri Poothatta Narayanan was one of the persons who addressed the public meeting which was held in Mahe on 16th July 1954, immediately after the French handed over the Settlement to the people of Mahe. Obviously, he could not have addressed the meeting if he had been prevented from entering Mahe."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" On the noon of 16th July 1954, Sri Poothatta Narayanan, one of the outstanding leaders of the Mahe Liberation Movement, was prevented by the Police near the Mahe bridge from entering Mahe. Afterwards, he entered Mahe by some other way and it is true that he addressed the meeting that day at 7 p.m. Though the statement of the Hon. Minister may be partially correct, he is not correct when he says that Sri Poothatta Narayanan was not obstructed by the Police. Because, not only myself but also some of the Assembly Members were present on the spot and we personally know of the fact that Sri Poothatta Narayanan was obstructed by the Police. So, will the Hon. Minister kindly enquire into the matter? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I do not have any information whether Sri Poothatta Narayanan was an outstanding leader of the Mahe Liberation Movement. Of course, the hon. Member is entitled to have his own opinion about him. But, with regard to his having been prevented from entering Mahe, I may state that till the date of actual liberation, there was an embargo on Indians entering that area as we thought that the French authorities might make a complaint that Indian nationals were interfering in their affairs. That is why, without reference to any party, creed or caste, we said that no Indian national should enter the

Mahe area till actual liberation. After the liberation, every Indian was allowed to enter Mahe freely and participate along with other people in the celebration of Mahe's liberation and attainment of freedom and we did not prevent anybody from addressing public meetings which were held there and taking part in the big gatherings there. As a matter of fact, this particular gentleman also participated in the meeting."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that on the day, when a contingent of *satyagrahis* marched into Mahe, those with red badges were expressly not allowed to enter the Mahe bridge? Even on the day of the alleged liberation, because then liberation only meant that the French walked out, the Government of India did not have control; even Sri A. K. Gopalan was not allowed to go in his car on the Mahe bridge, but was asked to go along the railway bridge."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Evidently, the Police wanted to prevent dangerous elements from entering Mahe and they thought the red badge was a dangerous sign. After a certain time, everybody was allowed to enter Mahe and freely participate in meetings."

SRI C. KANDASAMY :—" இந்தச் சபையின் அங்கத்தினர் ஒருவர் திட்டவட்டமாக, குறிப்பிட்ட நபர் ஒருவர் மாஹிக்குள் நுழையும்போது தடுக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறார் என்று சொல்வதால் அதைப்பற்றி இனிமேலாவது விசாரணை செய்து உண்மையைத் தெரிந்துகொள்ள கனம் மந்திரி அவர்கள் முயற்சிப்பாரா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I have already stated that before we could give general orders for people to enter and participate in the celebration there, there was a ban imposed on the entry of Indians into Mahe. Till that ban was lifted, everybody was prevented from entering Mahe. As I said, after that, everybody was allowed freely to enter Mahe without any discrimination being made against any person."

SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Hon. Members Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar, Sri K. P. Gopalan, Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar and I were present there on that day. We know very well that Sri Poothatta Narayanan was not allowed in the first instance to enter Mahe. So, the Hon. Minister's statement that he was not obstructed is not correct. Will the Hon. Minister therefore be pleased to kindly enquire into the matter and find out the correct position? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" An enquiry is absolutely unnecessary. I have already stated that up to a certain time everybody was prevented from entering Mahe. After that, general instructions were issued that everybody could enter Mahe and participate in the celebration of attainment of freedom. As a matter of fact, everybody was allowed to enter Mahe after the liberation. There is therefore no necessity for conducting an enquiry into this matter."

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Sri P. K. Gopalakrishnan :—" The Hon. Minister was saying that Indian nationals were prevented from entering Mahe up to a certain time. As a matter of fact, Sri Poothatta Narayanan belonged to Mahe. As such, why did the Government prevent him from entering Mahe? "

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" I do not know how he came out then, because there was a cordon round that area. So, this kind of illicit coming out of and entering Mahe had to be prevented at that stage."

Sri K. Vinayakam :—" Sir, when there was a general ban imposed on Indians entering any French territory, was any discrimination shown between the Congress volunteers and the Communist volunteers, i.e., whether Congress volunteers were freely allowed to go in and Communist volunteers were prevented from entering the territory? Will the Hon. Minister make the position clear? " 11-10 a.m.

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" Sir, I am glad, the hon. Member has put this question. As a matter of fact this was the subject-matter of another question which the hon. Member Sri K. P. Gopalan was not pleased to put in view of the strange circumstances. In reply to that question, I should have stated that no discrimination was made on account of party, colour, caste or religion. Everybody was banned from entering the territory."

Sri V. R. Krishna Ayyar :—" Sir, as the hon. Member Sri Kanaran pointed out, was it not a fact—I know to my knowledge it is a fact—that volunteers with red badges were prevented from entering Mahe on the evening when there was this march, while others with white and other badges were actually allowed in? That is the statement of four hon. Members here. Therefore, would the Hon. Minister be pleased to make an enquiry into the matter and see whether there was, as a matter of fact, prevention of a certain section of the volunteers from entering the place? "

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" I am quite satisfied, Sir. No doubt there was a ban up to a certain time. After that, everybody was allowed to enter Mahe; even hon. Members carrying red flags were allowed to enter and they participated in the meeting there."

Sri T. C. Narayanan Nambiar :—" As one who was present on the spot I would like to inform the Hon. Minister through you, Sir, that all the volunteers with white caps were freely allowed to enter the territory while volunteers with red badges were not allowed. I want to know whether it is a fact that some instructions were issued by the officials at the district level as desired by the Malabar Pradesh Congress Committee who wanted to make a show that it was the Congress that contributed to the liberation of the French territory and conceal the fact that

two martyrs belonging to the Red Flag and the working class and other sections of the people also contributed their mite for the liberation of Mahe?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Sir, whoever contributed to the liberation of the French territory of Mahe, one thing is quite clear. The Communists retarded the liberation to a certain extent. All these things apart, liberation has taken place and we have allowed everybody to enter Mahe now."

SRI K. P. KUTTIKRISHNAN NAIR :—"Are the Government aware of the fact that it is the Mahajana Sabha consisting of Congressmen and Socialists that participated in the liberation movement and the Reds most probably were prevented by a guilty conscience from being there?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"I have already stated that because of the activities of the Communists, the liberation was retarded; but for their activities, we would have had the liberation a little earlier."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—"Sir, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is a fact that on that day, the Congress volunteers stood by the side of the Reserve Constables and it was on their advice the Reserve Constables and the Malabar Special Police obstructed certain kinds of volunteers entering Mahe? Was this done owing to guilty conscience or owing to political prejudice?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"Sir, no such discrimination was made. As a matter of fact, hon. Members found themselves inside Mahe. Therefore, I do not think there is any room for any complaint."

Floating of open market loan.

* 61 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state the reason why the loan referred to in paragraph 11 of the Finance Minister's Budget Speech on 26th February 1954 has not yet been floated?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"As the Government of India agreed to meet the essential capital requirements of this State out of the proceeds of the National Plan Loan issued by them recently, the Government have decided not to raise a new open market loan during the current year as originally contemplated. This was announced in a Press Note issued on the 23rd April 1954."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—"கனம் மந்திரியார் அவர்கள் டில்லியில் டெவலப்மெண்ட் போர்ட் மீட்டிங்கு நடக்கும்போது, திட்டங்களை நடத்த பணம் இல்லையென்று சொன்னார். அப்படியிருக்கும்போது ஏன் மத்திய சர்க்காரை இந்த மாகாண சர்க்கார் நம்பியிருக்க வேண்டும் ? ஏன் இங்கேயே கடன் எழுப்பலாகாது ?"